

Attention employers:

In 1993, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry announced a new program designed to assist employers in making their workplaces safer and healthier.

The Safety Grants Program awards funds, with a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$10,000, to qualifying employers for projects designed to reduce the risk of injury or illness to their employees.

You must:

- have current workers' compensation insurance (including the Assigned Risk Plan or approved self-insured employer);
- be an employer with at least one employee;
- have an on-site safety survey conducted by Minnesota OSHA or one of those listed in the program guidelines; and
- have on-site safety survey results that recommend specific equipment or practices that will reduce the risk of injury or illness to employees.

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Safety *Grant* Program



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Application



To be considered for a safety grant, a grant application must be completed and signed, with all required attachments included, and the applicant must be financially able to match any grant money that is

awarded toward the project.

As of March 1, 2002, applications are accepted continuously and grants are awarded monthly.

Grant monies may be used for:

- all or part of the cost of purchasing and/or installing recommended safety equipment;
- the cost of operating or maintaining such equipment;
- the cost of property, if the property is necessary to meet safety inspection recommendations;
- the cost of training tied to equipment; and
- tuition reimbursement.

The recipient has 120 days from the date of the last agreement signature to complete the project.

Priority

If the number of qualified applicants exceeds funds availability, grants will be awarded based on need, desirability and the following priorities:

1. Projects in a location where the majority of jobs are in goods producing, manufacturing or processing areas will receive the highest priority.
2. Projects located on sites where jobs have been lost or are in jeopardy because of problems relating to safety shortcomings that will be addressed by the project will be considered next.
3. Other projects that meet proposal criteria will also be considered.

Other terms

- An employer that has received a grant for a particular worksite will not be eligible to receive another grant for that worksite during the two years after the date of the award.
- Whether your grant application is approved or not, in no way diminishes, delays or absolves you of any obligation to abate hazards as required by law. No state funds will be distributed until all grant documents are signed by all parties; funds expended before that must not rely on grant approval.

Criteria

The commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry shall award grants based on the following criteria:

- The project is feasible and consistent with the recommendations given in the on-site safety survey.
- The employer has the experience and knowledge to complete the project and is committed to its implementation.
- The project will reduce the risk of injury or illness to employees.
- The employer has sufficient funds to cover all estimated project costs (such as: employer match + other).
- The project is supported by all public entities involved and complies with federal, state and local regulations.



The Safety Grant Program is authorized by Minnesota Statutes §79.253 and is governed by Minnesota Rules Parts 5203.0010 through 5203.0070.

Copies of these laws are available for review at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. They are also available on the Web at www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us.

